

T News Letter **DARS**

G3ZME
G6ZME

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

www.TDARS.org.uk

FOUNDED 1969

www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

Issue 263

May/June 2014

www.TDARS.org.uk

Programme

www.telfordhamfest.co.uk

- May 14 Surplus Sale. Usual 10% to club funds. Eric with the gavel
- May 21 TDARS Test Equipment and more. Check your own multimeter's accuracy!
- May 28 2nd 2 metre DF competition. Bring 2m H/H and use the TDARS flexiyagis. 7:30pm
- June 4 First-in-the-Month GX3ZME on-the-air + Committee Meeting (7:30pm)
- June 11 B-B-Q on the Village Field. *Prior* £1 deposit to guarantee your food! (M0JZH)
- June 18 50 MHz Trophy & VHF NFD Contests Planning and preparation meeting
- June 21 (Sat) "Blitz Hill" at Blists Hill. 6-9pm—contact Martin 2E0TRO or Richard G0VXG
- June 21-22 (weekend) 50MHz Trophy weekend from Long Mynd. Full 400 Watts! G0UFE i/c**
- June 25 WSPR, Reverse Beacons and the like. Talk by Eric M0KSB
- July 2 First-in-the-Month GX3ZME on-the-air + Committee Meeting (7:30pm)
- July 5-6 (weekend) VHF NFD from the Long Mynd. Arrive on site c. 10:15 am Saturday onwards**
- July 9 3rd 2m DF competition. Bring 2m H/H and use the TDARS flexiyagis. 7:30pm
- July 16 Proposed visit to Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker (nr Nantwich/Audlem). Visit depends on minimum 20 members/friends signing up previously to go.
- July 23 "QSL Cards" by Paul M0PNN—our overworked QSL manager! Bring along your own favourites too.
- July 30 Kite Portable on the Little Wenlock Village Field.
- August 3 433MHz (70cm) Low Power Contest. Portable site tbc (M0JZH/2E0CHV)**
- August 6 First-in-the-Month GX3ZME on-the-air + Committee Meeting (7:30pm)

For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.
For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Simon 2E0CHV or Don 2E0DSN
Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: www.tdars.org.uk/html/training.html

VILLAGE HALL, MALTHOUSE BANK, LITTLE WENLOCK, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE. TF6 5BG

Editorial

The new Committee which was elected at the recent TDARS AGM is slightly reduced in size (see below), but hopefully a little more streamlined; it's surprising just how much business is transacted each month. There is always some banter and irrelevance, even utter nonsense at times. But the committee exists to try and meet the wishes of the Society's membership, as well as promoting amateur radio in its widest context. The programme ahead includes outside events and contest stations, direction finding, equipment sales, the use of test equipment, current data and beacon modes, QSL-ing, - and of course some social events such as a B-B-Q. The programme of events is usually drawn up for about 4 months ahead; thus at the May C.M. we checked plans for events up to the end of July, with a couple of amendments, and then looked at the four Wednesdays of August. We're always looking for fresh ideas from members. The HamFest preparations also form an important part of the meetings from April to September, and the first mail-shot goes out this month to about 55 traders/exhibitors.

Talking of HamFest, there is something that Members can help with. There was a time when there were about 100 stalls at our annual rally, and we had several thousand people through the entrance doors. Those days have gone, at Telford as everywhere else. We now have to work even harder to have a successful rally. I know of several members who help by first contacting traders who support our HamFest when they purchase a new piece of equipment, or whatever. I'll drop a few names here, with apologies to any trader who reads this, but is not included. A new rig or ATU? - try LAMCO, Rich Elec. or Mirfield. Replacement parts or whole antennas? - then Sandpiper or Pro-whip. Feeders and connectors? - Westlake. Embroidered clothing? - Peter Hall. Quality test equipment? - Analogue instruments, SBARS, Kevin Avery. Batteries? - Mickey's Elec.. SDR receivers? - Cross Country Wireless. What else? - well there are lots more traders selling everything from a bag of resistors to a second-hand top quality rig, as well as a series of 'special interest' groups. Just remember to mention our HamFest when you contact the company by phone or internet; tell them you came to them because of their presence at Telford. A bit of praise can go a long way—and hopefully they will keep coming back, year after year.

Finally, why not have a go at the new HF QRP Challenge—see full rules page 6.

MIV

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TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN: Derek Southey G0EYX (01785 604904)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Martyn Vincent (01952 255416)

SECRETARY: John Humphreys M0JZH (07824-737716)

TREASURER: Jim Wakenell G8UGL (01952 684173)

CURATOR : Simon 2E0CHV (01588 673974) (note new number)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)

PUBLICITY : Dave GOCER (01630 638699 or 07971 416940, leave msg)

Committee: Simon G0UFE; Eric M0KZB; Martin 2E0TRO; Brian G6UDX; Trophies/Certs: G3UKV;

QSL Manager Paul M0PNN; Assist. Curator: Don 2E0DSN. Little Wenlock V.H. committee Liaison officer Martin 2E0TRO

CURRENT LOCAL NETS 4metres, Mondays 7pm on 70.425 MHz FM:

Morse Practice: Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays around 8pm, usually 144.600 MHz.

Thursdays—3605KHz at 9am—GB2CW morse transmission followed by ‘call-ins’.

80m Mondays, Fridays 3657 KHz— net from 8:45am (open to anyone, not just tvars).

Qtc: News & Information



TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE

ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME.

ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM.

MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM

Please note: A current membership card must be shown to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .

The **TDARS AGM** took place at the end of March, and following the reading of the 2013 AGM Minutes, Derek delivered his **Chairman's Report**. It had once again been a busy and successful year, with highlights including the G100RSGB stations, portable at Tywyn (GB100TMD), success on VHF NFD (winners Mix 'n Match section), improved scores on 50MHz Trophy contest, JOTA and uWave contests. Attendance has been in the range of 14 to 38 at weekly meetings, with about 25 regularly. Four DF hunts, 3 construction evenings, guest speaker Richard G3CWI and 6 social type evenings. About 30 licence students have been trained at all levels (F, I and full—G3JKX & others). On-air morse (M0KZB), tower repairs and improvements, tea & coffee provision (2E0KLS & Gordon), the web site (M0TOY). Thanks to everyone who has contributed, especially the 2013/14 committee. The **Treasurer's Report** by Jim followed. The highest outgoings are for Rent at LWVH (£949), but also insurance (£253) and purchases (incl 6m beam, triBand antenna, GB3TF, new winch and cable, + miscell.) Subs income was £1040. The bank balance remained about the same as a year ago, thanks to the HamFest income. No increase in subs. was needed at present.

The **committee elections** followed (see page 2), with John M0JZH following Mike G3JKX's eighteen years of service as Hon.Sec. Also, Martin 2E0TRO's contribution as representing tdars on the Village Hall Committee was recognised and formalised.



Then the **distribution of Trophies** took place:

The 2013 Foxhunt was won by Norman G0ASP, the Under-a-Fiver Construction by Richard G0VXG, the Main Construction by Dave G8VZT, the Jack Hassall Trophy by Mike G3JKX, the Syd Poole Trophy by Simon G0UFE, the Kippure Trophy to a certain G6, the first Newsletter Caption Competition (bar of chocolate) went to Rob M0TOY.

Then a **special award** was presented to **Mike Street G3JKX** in recognition of his tremendous contribution over nearly 20 years as Hon. Secretary to the Society. The award was a beautiful Galilean Thermometer with engraved plaque, plus a framed certificate of merit. A certificate was also presented to 'Speedy' (Peter) Elstub 2E0KLS for his willingness to take on the tea & coffee swindle for club members' benefit over the past year.

The meeting concluded with a lively discussion over the proposal by Martyn G3UKV to purchase an **amplifier for HF and 6m** operation—the Elecraft kpa500, which gives upto 500 watts output from any HF/6m rig. By an overwhelming vote, this Motion was passed, and the amplifier has been purchased, put together (thanks Jim G8UGL) and already operated very successfully at Tywyn (GB8MD) for the International Marconi Day event.

From Simon 2E0CHV and John M0JZH: GX6ZME/P:

21st - 22nd June: 50mhz Trophy (G0UFE i/c) - Long Mynd

5th - 6th July VHF NFD (G3UKV i/c).—Long Mynd

Sunday 3rd August: 432mhz Low Power Contest. Venue TBC.

18th - 19th October: Jamboree on the Air at Wellington Scout Group.

Sunday 16th November: Shrewsbury Battlefield TBC

Sunday 7th December: Portable at the Bog.

"We do hope that many of you will get involved, or visit us on these dates—and once again help us to enjoy portable operations!"

A man with a white beard, wearing a light blue shirt and a brown vest, stands next to a woman. The woman is wearing a black dress with a high slit, white lace stockings, and a black sailor-style hat. They are standing in front of a wooden door. To the right, there is a desk with a typewriter, a lamp, and some papers.

Entries please to the Editor by the **end of June**. Small prize for the best suggestion by a TDARS member.

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a grey zip-up sweater over a green shirt and khaki shorts, stands in a grassy field. He is smiling at the camera. Behind him is a dense line of green trees and bushes. The ground is a mix of green grass and brown, muddy patches.

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Here's a couple of shots taken by Bob M0RJS at **Tywyn (April 26th)** for the **Marconi Day**. The specially constructed "shack" shown here was made by Simon M6SHI as part of his vintage military mobile display set-up. It's quite superb. Operators shown here are Simon 2E0CHV and Norman G0ASP, with Simon M6SHI looking on. The tdars committee want to express their thanks to Simon 'CHV who co-ordinated the event, but also to include everyone else who made the event such a success, given quite adverse weather conditions that weekend.



Steve, M1GIZ, gave those present at the recent 'Ten Minute Talks' a brief resumé of a **new 2 metre repeater GB3BX** that has been set up on a farm on Wenlock Edge. It's coverage in our area is quite outstanding. Output frequency is **145.675 MHz** (145.075 input), but you must use CTCSS to access it, on a most unusual frequency of **246.2 Hz**, rather than 103.7 Hz ("G") normally used in this area. It won't respond to a 1750Hz toneburst either. Steve urged everyone to give it a try.

***Following the AGM, subscriptions are due for 2014/15. Rates have been held at just £28, or £22 for non-earners, and £14 for full time students, for yet another year. Please let Jim G8UGL have your sub. if you have not yet paid for the current year.***

The committee have further decided that in fairness to fully paid up members, when we have an outside speaker, it would be appropriate to charge lapsed or non-members a small charge to help offset costs, such as travel expenses paid to the speaker, depending on circumstances. Another good reason to renew your membership now !

A small sub-group within tdars members go out portable each month from April to September. Usually it's Jim G8UGL, Mike G4NKC, Martyn G3UKV and Kevin G8UPF, who like to dabble with microwaves (the 1.3, 2.3, 3.4, 5.7, 10 and 24 GHz amateur bands). The results of our uW contest entries for 2013 have just been announced, and for the second year running **TDARS have won the 5.7 GHz Trophy**. The secret behind their success is consistency, reliable (well, fairly) equipment and the top-notch site of the Brown Clee (IO82QL). Other club members are always welcome to join us; the contests mostly take place on the last Sunday of the month. Contact one of us for further details and join this gently paced activity.

A most successful portable activity took place at **Mitchell's Fold** back in March. You can see from the photo as members walked up to the site that the gear, including antennas, was truly lightweight. The weather was perfect (except for lack of breeze for kite flying until near the end), and about a dozen members turned up.

... and there were more in front and following:



Spot the 5 visible operators and 3 masts on Mitchell's Fold .



Down to earth operating .



"Anyone want a sip? "





From Dave 'DTB (slightly edited):-

*"Hi Martyn - further to my last email, I copied and pasted the Oakengates NGR number into a NGR finder program on the net, and yes it is the bunker site that I told you about: the wife wants to go out now and look at the site. I was up there with my FT817 doing a bit of portable ops a few years ago - that's when I found machine tracks up there - Demolition of bunker no doubt. Dave 2E0DTB"*

A second contact (sorry, mislaid it—Ed) referred to a possible bunker at Stottesdon, south-west of Bridgnorth. I re-checked the ROC (Royal Observer Corps) web site, but can't see any reference to it there. Perhaps it was something else military?

# The T.D.A.R.S QRP CHALLENGE FOR 2014

MODE : SSB only } *These limits give all levels of amateur radio*  
POWER: 5 watts maximum } *licence an equal opportunity to win a*  
ANTENNAS: Wire only } *Section, or become the overall Winner.*  
LOGS: Paper logs to be used } *See also scoring system below.*

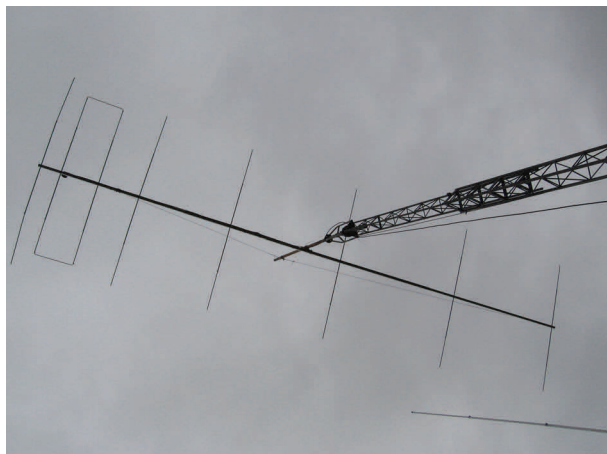
SEPTEMBER: 18 and 24 MHz

**For any advice or clarification of rules —contact John M0JZH or Simon 2E0CHV**



As usual, the “**Ten Minute Topics**” evening delivered quite a range of topics, from ‘Off-Road Driving’ techniques (Norman G0ASP) to whacky Andorran references to not “Putting all your Basques in one Eggsit” (Bob M0RJS). Other topics (more radio orientated!) included Paul’s (M0PNN) new 3 ele LFA antenna for 6 metres (photo, left), Peter G1MFG describing an i-star modulator to use with a FM car-radio, the new GB3BX 2m repeater (Steve M1GIZ), the new RDDS locking system for the GB3ZME 24GHz club beacon (Martyn G3UKV) and Kevin (G8UPF) on component codes.

The **May 10/11 50MHz antenna and rig tests** on Little Wenlock Playing Field went ahead, despite wet and squally weather conditions. The new Elecraft KPA500 amplifier (legal limit output HF and 6 metres) worked flawlessly, as it also had at Tywyn two weeks earlier on HF.



The tuning of the 7 ele 6m antenna also was successful, although the mast had to be lowered a couple of times to tune the folded driven element to the CW/SSB portion of the band. The gang worked 11 different DXCC countries, despite poor conditions, with hardly any ‘Es’. G3UKV and M0PNN gave local reports, beam-to-beam to check for “nasties” - there were none, although the CQ parrot needed a slight tweak for best results. John’s Report follows next page.

The **April 2m DF hunt** was rather less successful—only G0EYX and G3UKV went walkies to find the digi-fox, whilst everyone else seemed content to have a natter back at LWVH HQ. Quite an effort has gone into promoting these summer DF hunts, as well as the construction of four offset-oscillator and flexi-yagis for members to borrow. Let’s hope for more support on **May 28th**. Form groups of 2 or more if preferred. Greater participation will make these events more enjoyable, and the experience is experience, if you follow.....

The committee has given a little thought to the **B-B-Q on the Village Field on June 11th**. A ticket deposit of £1 can be bought from Derek ‘EYX any time before the event. Those with a ticket will be served first at the event, on payment of the balance (about £2). This will help in preparing sensible quantities of food beforehand. Non-ticket holders can take their chances, since obviously some extra food will be available. This is an attempt to overcome a problem last year when more people than expected turned up on the night, and food was in short supply and had to be rationed, although no-one went totally without food.

**Thanks for Newsletter input this time from Kevin G8UPF, John M0JZH, Jim G8UGL, Bob M0RJS, and the Caption Competition entrants.**

## 6m VHF Weekend 10-11<sup>th</sup> May by John M0JZH

This weekend was the one of the portable events of the calendar that we have organised that was set up with a specific purpose. To test out the new 6m 7 element yagi, and the subsequent purchase of the Elecraft linear amplifier for HF and 6m.

This weekend has been planned since the beginning of the year, and as always with these events, we are at the mercy of the weather, however we did not anticipate what was scheduled to arrive this weekend. I had been watching the weather in the run up to the weekend, and nothing was changing. Saturday and Sunday were expected to be wet, not just wet, but heavy rain. Friday night with the prospect of this awful weather prediction we decided to call the weekend off. If it cleared up, then maybe Sunday we could get at least the antenna up to sort out its assembly and putting it up.

Waking up on Saturday morning to blue skies and no rain immediately brought to mind “Have we done the right thing?” A text exchange to Simon (UFE) and we were back on. A quick text around and conversation on ‘TF and two willing volunteers came forward, Don (2E0DSN), and newly licenced Andy (M6YVN – **You’re Very New**) and we were in business.

12pm we were on the field, trailer and all, and before long the new 7 ele for 6m started to take shape; boy, is it a big antenna. Stopping for a few times to let the rain showers pass and we were almost ready to begin. 3pm and we were in business. Antenna up and tuned, radio in place, amplifier working and an SWR of 1:1 - all was looking good. We worked through from 3pm to about 8pm and gained around 60 contacts in 11 countries in total, our best dx into Greece, but also other countries worked were Serbia, Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Ukraine. To round off the night a little diversion onto HF and a couple of contacts into the States on 20m. For a review, a couple of questions I can answer. Is the Elecraft amplifier any good?— oh my it certainly is, having had the pleasure of using it on Marconi and this weekend on 6m, it certainly made a difference. When you are told by a contact in the Ukraine that not only are you a 5&9+ but you are also the only station that he can hear on 6m it says something. This contact was not the only one to compliment us in this way, there were others. Most of the contacts gave us a better signal report than we could give to them. The antenna, well I had the pleasure of using the 5 element yagi last 50Mhz trophy competition last year, this is a sure improvement, its ability to push the extra signal from the amplifier into a narrower beam means that we have something to be proud of. Although we are not up to the power of the Black Sheep Contesting Group, I think that we now have a station of which we can be justifiably proud.

Please join with us on one of the contests that are to be entered this year and enjoy yourself.

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|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Simon Taylor CM       | 2E0CHV |
| Don Nicholls          | 2E0DSN |
| David Bradley         | 2E0DTB |
| Ian Pipe              | 2E0IZP |
| Peter Elstub (speedy) | 2E0KLS |
| Martin Tromans CM     | 2E0TRO |
| Ray Corbett           | 2E1HTU |
| Peter Westwell        | 2E0ZSU |
| Allan Core            | G0AGC  |
| Norman Mason          | G0ASP  |
| Ken Pye               | M0CFT  |
| Dave Harris           | G0CER  |
| Derek Southey CM      | G0EYX  |
| Simon Bird CM         | G0UFE  |
| Michael Street        | G3JKX  |
| Martyn Vincent CM     | G3UKV  |
| Ken Linney            | G3UDA  |
| John Butler           | G4JOW  |

|                    |    |        |
|--------------------|----|--------|
| Brian Oldford      | CM | G6UDX  |
| Jim Wakenell       | CM | G8UGL  |
| Dave Hall          |    | G8VZT  |
| Dave Morris        |    | GM3YEW |
| Ron Cappleman      |    | M0EAK  |
| Don Sunderland     |    | M0FHM  |
| John Humphreys     | CM | M0JZH  |
| Eric Arkinstall    | CM | M0KZB  |
| Paul Bowen         |    | M0PNN  |
| Bob Roberts        |    | M0RJS  |
| Rob Whiteway       |    | M0TOY  |
| Richard Herbert    |    | M1RKH  |
| Albert Hamilton    |    | 2E0KDF |
| Chris Cousins      |    | 2E0PWF |
| John Alexander     |    | M6JAX  |
| Simon Shillingbear |    | M6SHI  |

**TDARS Paid-up Membership as of 11/05/2014**



GB8MD—Tywyn—26 April 2014



David (MW0UAA) and daughter Becky MW6ZOL



472KHz station—no QSOs!



Someone has to do it. Socks to follow...



What have we got here ?  
(Robin G1MHU)



20 metre  
log sheet.  
Can't be  
bad...

| Amateur Radio Station Log GB8MD International Marconi Day 2014 |          |                 |      |             |               |        |         |      |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|------|-------------|---------------|--------|---------|------|--------------------|
| Date                                                           | Time UTC | Frequency (MHz) | Mode | Power (dBW) | Station       | Report | Station | QSL  | Remarks            |
|                                                                | Start    | Finish          |      |             | Called/Worked | Sent   | Rec'd   | Sent | Rec'd              |
|                                                                | 54       | 14 240          |      |             | RA3 PLI       | 53     | 54      |      | SERG1              |
|                                                                | 550      |                 |      |             | UA9 KXY       | 55     | 55      |      |                    |
|                                                                | 552      |                 |      |             | RV54 SB       | 55     | 55      |      | G REV              |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | SV3 LL        | 54     | 55      |      |                    |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | SV2 LL        | 54     | 54      |      |                    |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK3 JLS       | 55     | 54      |      | JOHN               |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK3 AFB       | 57     | 54      |      | PAUL MELBOURNE     |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK2 IHO       | 54     | 54      |      | NO MAN SYDNEY      |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK3 VTH       | 55     | 55      |      | TONY 100W WIRE WWR |
|                                                                | 674      |                 |      |             | VK2 DON       | 56     | 55      |      | DON SYDNEY         |
|                                                                | 616      |                 |      |             | K4 WSA        | 55     | 55      |      | LARRY S F          |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK3 KCD       | 56     | 54      |      | PETER MEL FLINDERS |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK3 THB       | 58     | 54      |      | DIVE               |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK5 KLT       | 54     | 54      |      | LEIGH HORLIDE      |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK2 ATP       | 54     | 5410    |      | JOE SYDNEY         |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK5 ZKT       | 57     | 57      |      | ICASS              |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK2 HDX       | 55     | 54      |      | PAUL GY            |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK3 TCX       | 55     | 56      |      | IAN                |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK1 EM        | 56     | 57      |      | MARK               |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK5 PAS       | 58     | 54      |      | PAUL               |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK2 NUN       | 55     | 56      |      | DIMKEN             |
|                                                                |          |                 |      |             | VK6 APP       | 55     | 55      |      | ALLEN NEATH        |

Tywyn By The Seaside -  
A bit fresh Saturday evening



This box played its part.

